

# **IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For release, October 24, 2001**

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

**Sukhdshan S. Bedi, M.D.**, a 47 year-old physician practicing in Burlington, Iowa, was charged with the inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety as a result of a mental condition; engaging in unethical or unprofessional conduct or practice harmful or detrimental to the public; knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine; and demonstrating a pattern of professional incompetency. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for January 15, 2002

**David E. Blanchard, D.O.**, a 50 year-old physician practicing in Victoria, Texas, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Blanchard was charged by the Board with inappropriately prescribing excessive amounts of controlled substances to numerous patients. Dr. Blanchard was issued a Citation and Warning, ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and is required to attend a Board-approved prescribing course.

**Raymond D. Heller, M.D.**, a 39 year-old physician from Fort Morgan, Colorado, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Heller was charged with being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. The Colorado Medical Board charged Dr. Heller with engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a co-worker within six months of providing medical treatment. Dr. Heller successfully completed a professional boundary evaluation and a course on maintaining proper boundaries ordered by the Colorado Board. The Iowa Board issued Dr. Heller a Citation and Warning for being disciplined by the Colorado Medical Board. Dr. Heller has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

**Randall L. Hinrichs, M.D.**, a 53 year-old physician from Lisbon, Iowa, was charged by the Board with professional incompetency and engaging in practice harmful and detrimental to the public. Dr. Hinrichs was charged with failing to provide appropriate obstetrical care and treatment to at least 14 patients between 1991 and 1994. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for January 15, 2001.

**Gary C. Jobin, M.D.**, a 60 year-old physician from Salt Lake City, Utah, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Jobin was charged with being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. The Virginia Medical Board disciplined Dr. Jobin after he pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. The Iowa Board suspended Dr. Jobin's license for 30 days and placed him on indefinite probation under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Jobin has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

**Jose V. Lopez, M.D.**, a 50 year-old physician formerly practicing in Mason City, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Lopez was charged with professional incompetency and engaging in unethical conduct, when on at least two occasions, he fell asleep while providing anesthesia services during surgical procedures and later falsified operative notes. Dr. Lopez successfully completed a physical, neuropsychological and substance abuse evaluation and no evidence of chemical dependence or abuse was found. The Board placed Dr. Lopez' Iowa medical license on probation for 2 years under certain terms and conditions, and ordered him to attend a professional ethics course and pay a \$2,500 fine.

**Daniel E. Miulli, D.O.**, a 41 year-old neurosurgeon formerly practicing in Des Moines, Iowa, was the subject of an Order issued by the Board as resolution of pending disciplinary charges. On January 18, 2001, Dr. Miulli was ordered to immediately cease the practice of surgery on the central nervous system and spine. Dr. Miulli was charged by the Board with professional incompetency in his treatment of at least five patients between 1998 and 2001. A hearing on the pending disciplinary charges was held from August 21-24, 2001. Following the disciplinary hearing the Board issued an Order indefinitely prohibiting Dr. Miulli from engaging in the practice of surgery on the central nervous system and spine. Dr. Miulli was ordered to successfully complete a comprehensive competency evaluation and submit an education plan and monitoring plan for Board approval prior to seeking reinstatement of the full privileges of his Iowa medical license.

**Don O. Newland, M.D.**, an 80 year-old retired physician from Des Moines, Iowa, voluntarily surrendered his Iowa medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary investigation. The Board was investigating Dr. Newland's prescribing practices to family members.

**Robert T. Obma, M.D.**, a 61 year-old physician from Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Obma was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. The Wisconsin Medical Board charged Dr. Obma with engaging in unprofessional conduct based on allegations he performed an improper and unnecessary breast examination. The Iowa Board issued a Citation and Warning and ordered Dr. Obma to successfully complete a professional sexual misconduct evaluation and pay a \$1,000 fine prior to returning to the practice of medicine in Iowa. Dr. Obma is required to have a female chaperone continually present at all times while treating female patients in Iowa. Dr. Obma has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

**Gerald M. Paul, M.D.**, a 60 year-old physician from Los Angeles, California, was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the regulatory authority of another state. The California Medical Board charged Dr. Paul with inappropriately paying a service for patient referrals in violation of California law. The California Medical Board issued Dr. Paul a public letter of reprimand. Dr. Paul has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for December 13, 2001.

**Richard S. Rigmaiden, III, M.D.**, a 50 year-old physician from Omaha, Nebraska, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Rigmaiden was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the licensing authority of another state. The Nebraska Medical Board charged Dr. Rigmaiden with unprofessional conduct based on allegations he prescribed controlled substances to his wife, diverted said prescriptions for his own use and failed

to maintain appropriate medical records. Dr. Rigmaiden successfully completed a substance abuse evaluation and prescribing course ordered by the Nebraska Board. The Iowa Board placed Dr. Rigmaiden's medical license on probation under certain terms and conditions and issued a Citation and Warning. Dr. Rigmaiden has not practiced in Iowa for some time.

**Terry L. Sprague, D.O.**, a 49 year-old physician from Audubon, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Sprague was charged with engaging in unethical and unprofessional conduct when he exploited the trust and influence derived from the physician/patient relationship by engaging in a sexual relationship with a patient. Dr. Sprague recently completed a professional sexual misconduct evaluation. The Board indefinitely suspended Dr. Sprague's Iowa medical license effective December 1, 2001. Dr. Sprague was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine, was issued a Citation and Warning and is permanently prohibited from treating any patient without having a Board-approved chaperone continually present. Dr. Sprague is permanently prohibited from providing counseling, psychotherapy services or other mental health services not within the ordinary range of services provided by a family practitioner.

**Scott W. Warwick, M.D.**, a 45 year-old physician from Watertown, South Dakota, was charged by the Iowa Board with being disciplined by the regulatory authority of another state. Dr. Warwick voluntarily surrendered his South Dakota medical license to resolve a pending disciplinary matter involving allegations of chemical dependency. Dr. Warwick has not practiced in Iowa for some time. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for December 13, 2001.

**Jess M. Zarate, M.D.**, a 53 year-old physician from Des Moines, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. Dr. Zarate was charged with willful or repeated violations of a lawful rule of the Board when on numerous occasions, between 1997 and 1999, he selected billing codes which did not accurately reflect the medical services provided. The Board suspended Dr. Zarate's Iowa medical license for 30 days and placed him on probation under certain terms and conditions for 5 years. Dr. Zarate was issued a Citation and Warning, ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine, and ordered to successfully complete courses on appropriate billing practices and professional ethics.